

Annual Project Report

Nigeria CUBS

October 2013 – September 2014

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Nigeria Community-Based support for Orphans and Vulnerable Children
200 Rivers Edge Drive
Medford, MA 02155
Telephone: (617) 250-9500
<http://www.msh.org>



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Community-Based Support for Orphans and Vulnerable Children in Nigeria

CUBS

Annual Report

October 1, 2013 to September 30, 2014



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Submitted By: Dr. Zipporah Kpamor, CUBS Project Director
To: Doreen Magaji [OVC Manager]
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Table of Contents

ACRONYMS	4
I. SUMMARY	6
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	6
ACTIVITY FINANCIAL SUMMARY	8
II. ABOUT THE COMMUNITY-BASED SUPPORT FOR OVC IN NIGERIA (CUBS) PROJECT	9
PROJECT OBJECTIVES	9
PROJECT COMPONENTS	9
III. ANNUAL DATA ACHIEVEMENT ON INTERMEDIATE RESULTS	11
INTERMEDIATE RESULT 1: ACCESS TO 6+1 OVC SERVICES INCREASED	11
INTERMEDIATE RESULT 2: CAPACITIES OF NATIONAL AND STATE GOVERNMENTS FOR VULNERABLE CHILDREN COORDINATION STRENGTHENED	16
INTERMEDIATE RESULT 3: COMMUNITY SUPPORT FOR VULNERABLE CHILDREN'S CARE STRENGTHENED	21
INTERMEDIATE RESULT 4: VULNERABILITY STATUS OF GIRL CHILDREN AND WOMEN REDUCED	25
INTERMEDIATE RESULT 5: SYSTEMS FOR DISSEMINATING EVIDENCE-BASED BEST PRACTICES STRENGTHENED ..	29

Acronyms

AIDSTAR	AIDS Support and Technical Resources
AO	Assistance Objective
AONN	Association of OVC Networks in Nigeria
CBO	Community-Based Organization
CCRN	Center for Clinical Research
COPS	County Operational Plans
CPC	Child Protection Committee
CPN	Child Protection Network
CSI	Child Status Index
CSO	Civil Society Organization
CUBS	Community-Based Support for OVC
FBOs	Faith-Based Organizations
FHH	Female Head of Household
FMWA&SD	Federal Ministry of Women’s Affairs and Social Development
HAF	Health Alive Foundation
HES	Household Economic Strengthening
HIV/AIDS	Human Immune Deficiency Virus/Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome
HTC	HIV/AIDS testing and counseling
ICAP	International Center for AIDS Treatment Programs
IGA	Income Generation Activities
IQC	Indefinite Quantity Contract
LGA	Local Government Area
LMC	Local Management Committee (on Vulnerable Children
LOP	Life of Project
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
MOH	Ministry of Health
MSH	Management Sciences for Health
NEPWHAN	Network of People Living with HIV/AIDS in Nigeria
NGN	Nigerian naira
NHOCAT	National Harmonized Organizational Capacity Assessment Tool
NOMIS	National OVC Management Information System
NPA	National Priority Agenda
NpopC	National Population Commission
OVC	Orphans and Vulnerable Children
PABA	People Affected by AIDS
PEPFAR	President’s Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief
PLHIV	People Living with HIV
PSS	Psychosocial Support Services

PY	Project Year
SACA State	Agencies for the Control of AIDS
SMWA	State Ministry of Women Affairs
SPA	State Priority Agenda
STTA	Short-term Technical Assistance
STSA	State Technical Steering Committee
SUBEB	State Universal Basic Education Board
TBA	Traditional Birth Attendant
TWG	Technical Working Group
VSJA	Village Savings and Loan Associations
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
USAID	United States Agency for International Development

CUBS Annual Report for Year 5: October 6, 2014

I. Summary

Executive Summary

Management Sciences for Health (MSH), in collaboration with Africare and Nigeria's Federal Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development (FMWA&SD), continues to implement the Community-Based Support for Orphans and Vulnerable Children (OVC) in Nigeria (CUBS) Project. Through funding from the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) and the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), CUBS provides support and coordination for scaling up HIV activities in Nigeria using community-based responses to:

- increase the number of OVC served with 6+1 services;
- strengthen the capacity of national and state governments to better protect and care for OVC;
- address OVC-related gender issues;
- increase local capacity to implement, monitor, and evaluate OVC programs; and
- document and disseminate lessons learned.

CUBS served a total of 53,111 OVC with a minimum of one care service, achieving 106% of the target. During the reporting period, an additional 4,518 OVCs were enrolled.

In this reporting year, which is the final phase of the project, CUBS continued to render holistic and comprehensive services that focused on protecting orphans and vulnerable children (OVC) against harm, helping them when they were in need, and promoting their overall development.

The following services were provided to OVCs in Year 5:

- **Health: 15,352 males and 15,571 females;**
- **Education: 3,778 males and 4,304 females;**
- **Psychosocial support: 24,846 males and 24,782 females;**
- **Protection: 2,476 males and 2,319 females;**
- **Nutrition: 9,351 males and 9,259 females; and**
- **Shelter and care components: 1,412 males and 1,439 females.**

CUBS provided training to an additional 615 caregivers during the year, and empowered 326 of the trainees with small business start-up grants.

This year, the Project also focused on the disbursement of block grants, a pillar of the CUBS exit strategy, and the closeout of state offices and 38 CSOs in the eleven project states (Akwa Ibom, Bayelsa, Delta, Ekiti, Enugu, Kebbi, Imo, Gombe, Taraba, Sokoto, and Rivers).

The Project supported the Gombe State Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development in a situation analysis to determine the burden and distribution of OVCs in the State, and guide their responses to the needs of OVC.

The CUBS end-of-project dissemination event was held on July 14, 2014 in Abuja. The event, titled "Facilitating Sustainable OVC Partnerships and Systems – the CUBS Story," was hosted by Management Sciences for Health (MSH) in collaboration with Africare and the Federal Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development (FMWA&SD). The meeting hall was filled to capacity and spilled over to an additional space to accommodate approximately 500 participants. High-level representatives from project stakeholders and partners attended, including PEPFAR; USAID; the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention; FMWA&SD; Federal Ministry of Health, the World Health Organization, the Association of OVC Networks in Nigeria (AONN), more than forty (40) representatives of enrolled OVCs, 11 CUBS partner states; 38 partner CSOs, and others.

The end date of the Project is October 6, 2014, and handing over of CUBS reports and database to the federal, state, local government, and implementing partners remains a high priority for OVC care sustainability.

With FMWA&SD taking the lead, **CUBS helped 10 states adapt the National Priority Agenda (NPA) on OVC to their local contexts.** The State Priority Agenda (SPA) on OVC now provides the guiding principles for OVC programming in those states.

As part of the interventions to protect vulnerable children from harm, help them when they are in need, and promote their overall development, **CUBS supported 116 Child Protection Committees (CPCs) and other community protection networks.** Activities included campaigns against drug abuse and violence in Kaltungo Communities in Gombe State. **CUBS also helped form the “Change Agent Group” to combat gender-based violence and enslavement of girls and women in the Uhunowerre Community of Enugu State.**

CUBS’ major project implementation challenge this year has been getting stakeholders to commit fully to continuing the project interventions once Africare and MSH complete and exit their roles in the Project.

Activity Financial Summary

CUBS' FINANCIAL SUMMARY
Activity Name: Community-Based Support for Orphans and Vulnerable Children (OVC) in Nigeria (CUBS)
Activity Objective: Support the Government of Nigeria in implementing its <i>National Plan of Action on Orphans and Vulnerable Children (OVC)</i> by developing and strengthening community- based service delivery for OVC, building community ownership of OVC interventions, reducing gender discrimination in OVC programming, and increasing OVC involvement and advocacy.
Implementing Partner: Management Sciences for Health (MSH)
USAID/Nigeria Assistance Objective (AO): AO 3 - Increased Nigerian capacity for a sustainable HIV/AIDS and TB Response
Life of Activity (start and end dates): October 7, 2009 – October 6, 2014
Total Estimated Contract/Agreement Amount: \$20,907,645
Obligations to date: \$20,305,116
Current Pipeline Amount: \$2,314,323
Accrued Expenditures this Quarter: \$928,348
Activity Cumulative Accrued Expenditures to Date: \$17,990,793
Estimated Expenditures Next Quarter:
Report Submitted by: Dr. Zipporah Kpamor, CUBS Project Director
Submission Date: October 6, 2014

II. About the Community-Based Support for OVC in Nigeria (CUBS) Project

Through the CUBS project, PEPFAR and USAID have strengthened the capacity of Nigeria's federal and state government agencies to plan and implement OVC programs. The CUBS project provides these agencies with support and coordination for scaling up HIV activities using community-based responses to identify, locate, and protect OVC. Under the AIDS Support and Technical Resources' (AIDSTAR) indefinite quantity contract (IQC) mechanism, MSH and Africare collaborate with the Federal Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development (FMWA&SD) and the state ministries of women affairs and social development (SMWA&SD) to address these focus areas through CUBS' five-year contract. The Project also supports the implementation of Nigeria's *National Priority Agenda (NPA) on OVC* by developing and strengthening community-based OVC service delivery.

Using a bottom-up approach to mobilize families and OVC care and support stakeholders, CUBS integrates a previously fragmented OVC service delivery system, mobilizes community support for OVC, and raises awareness about OVC needs to reduce children's experience of stigma, discrimination, and isolation. The CUBS project provides capacity-building and on-the-job mentoring for state and community-based providers and institutions, implements targeted systems-strengthening activities, and offers small grants to CSOs supporting OVC service delivery.

The Project's partnerships leverage existing resources and build on established federal, state, and community foundations to improve OVC service delivery and expand best practices implementation.

By October 6, 2014, CUBS will have provided 53,111 OVCs in 11 focal states (Akwa Ibom, Bayelsa, Delta, Ekiti, Enugu, Gombe, Imo, Kebbi, Rivers, Sokoto, and Taraba) with comprehensive OVC services that are consistent with Nigeria's national OVC guidelines.

Project Objectives

1. Provide support for coordination and scale-up of HIV activities.
2. Mobilize and support community-based responses that identify, locate, and protect OVC.
3. Deliver a holistic service package focusing on the multifaceted needs of OVC.
4. Address gender-related issues in OVC programming.
5. Document and disseminate successful, innovative approaches, sustainable models, and evidence-based best practices.

Project Components

- *Capacity building and technical assistance:* CUBS builds capacity and provides technical support to national and state-level agencies, CSOs, and faith-based organizations (FBOs).
- *Community mobilization and coordination:* CUBS fosters coordination and ensures OVC service quality, policy development, and advocacy through establishing OVC forums.

- *Systems strengthening:* CUBS strengthens OVC support systems to enhance the effectiveness of the national OVC program.
- *Service outreach expansion:* CUBS expands coverage and access to OVC services.
- *Resource leveraging and linking:* CUBS leverages and links resources, including clinical and community-based partners.
- *Small innovation grants for CSOs:* CUBS provides CSOs and FBOs with small grants to support the identification of new OVC service delivery approaches, expand OVC services, and build the technical capacity of staff.

III. Annual Data Achievement on Intermediate Results

Intermediate Result 1: Access to 6+1 OVC Services Increased

Indicator	Indicator Description	PY 5 Target	Total PY 5 Achievement	% of Target Achieved	Comment
	% of Children with improved wellbeing using CSI	90%	50%	50%	Figure based on preliminary analysis, further analysis of additional data is ongoing.
C1.1.D	# of eligible clients (OVC) provided with a minimum of one care service	50,200	53,111	105.8%	Surpassed annual target
	- # newly enrolled	1,600	4,518	282.4%	
	- # previously enrolled	48,600	48,593	99.99%	
	Education (male)		3,778		
	Education (female)		4,304		
	Health (male)		15,352		
	Health (female)		15,571		
	Psychosocial support (male)		24,846		
	Psychosocial support (female)		24,782		
	Shelter (male)		1,412		
	Shelter (female)		1,439		
	Protection (male)		2,476		
	Protection (female)		2,319		
	Nutrition (male)		9,351		
	Nutrition (female)		9,259		
	Economic strengthening (male)		79		
	Economic strengthening (female)		133		
C5.1.D	# of eligible clients (OVC) who received food and/or nutrition services		18,610		
1.3	# of OVC caregivers who were trained in caring for OVC		430		
1.4	# of OVC who were referred for clinical services		441		

In the reporting year, CUBS continued to render holistic and comprehensive services focused on protecting OVCs against harm, helping them when they were in need, and promoting their overall development, including: health (M 15,352; F 15,571); education (M 3,778; F 4,304); psychosocial support (M 24,846; F 24,782); protection (M 2,476; F 2,319); nutrition (M 9,351; F

9,259); and shelter and care components (M 1,412; F 1,439). During the reporting year, the project reached a total of 53,111 OVC served with a minimum of one care service, which represents 106% of the annual target.

CUBS continued to support 116 Child Protection Committees (CPC) and other community protection networks as they carried out various activities across all 11 CUBS-supported states. Examples include the campaign against drug abuse and violence by CPC in Kaltungo Communities in Gombe State, and the formation of the “Change Agent Group on Harmful Practices Against Women and Girls” in Uhunowerre Community of Enugu State.

Providing psychosocial support is an ongoing process that involves identifying and meeting beneficiaries’ social, emotional, mental, and spiritual needs—all of which are essential to meaningful and positive human development. CUBS supported CSOs in an initiative to take their OVC beneficiaries on educational and inspirational excursions to airports, libraries, publishing houses, national art galleries, and recreational centers. The goal is to expose OVC to professional and life pathways that present opportunities they can explore in their lives. These and other **psychosocial support activities reached 49,628 OVC this year.**



OVCs participate in psychosocial activities.

Protection Services

Proof of birth registration in Nigeria is the most important document children will need to prove their identity, ensure their eligibility for protective services, and ease their integration into communal life. To that end, the Project partnered with the National Population Commission (NpopC) to facilitate the birth registration of children at the community level. This partnership included training to help CSO staff identify unregistered children and refer them to NpopC staff

for registration. **In the reporting year, a total of 4,795 OVC birth registrations were processed** across the Project communities.

In Nigeria, end-of-year celebrations bring community members together, and philanthropists from the community often return home to “give back” with laudable community development programs. CUBS leveraged these community meetings to share the Project’s exit strategy and to create awareness of the need to sustain these successful interventions. CUBS also utilized the meetings to provide information to CBOs on how to link with new development programs. The Project educated community members on how to sustain support for vulnerable families long after the Project closeout.

Caregivers’ Training

During the year, CUBS, in partnership with CSOs, conducted several caregiver trainings. These caregivers learned a variety of skills including counseling, household food security, environmental cleanliness, and nutritional sufficiency. They also learned strategies to increase their assets and resources, improve their communication skills, interact socially with children, and help improve the children’s academic performance—and they learned the skills necessary to scale up and deliver quality services to OVC even when the Project comes to an end. Refresher trainings conducted ensure that the family-centered services are based on need and are of high quality.

Block Grants

Through the block grant arrangement, the CUBS project provided support to the CSOs by funding community/school projects in return for educational services to vulnerable children. This arrangement resulted in waivers of school levies for more than 5,000 vulnerable children across 116 communities for a period of two to three years. The block grants enable many children who could not otherwise go to school to access both public and Islamic education. Many children who had dropped out of school returned to continue their educational pursuits.



The state of the classroom in Government Day Junior Secondary School, Pantami, before block grant intervention in Gombe State.



The classroom in Government Day Junior Secondary School, Pantami, after block grant intervention in Gombe State.



School chairs and tables were distributed in Ekiti as a result of the block grant initiative

Intermediate Result 2: Capacities of National and State Governments for Vulnerable Children Coordination Strengthened

Indicator	Indicator Description	PY 5 Target	Total PY 5 Achievement	% of Target Achieved	Explanation
2.1	# of AIDSTAR states with comprehensive OVC plans	11	10	90.9%	Done in all Project states except in Rivers due to delayed government support
2.2	# of functional state and LGA community coordination mechanisms (OVC forums) in place to monitor OVC programs	11 33 LGAs	11 36 LGAs	>100%	
2.3	# of AIDSTAR states with existing functional referral systems	11	11	100%	
2.4	# of persons from state ministries and LGAs trained in leadership and management	30	67	223.3%	Target exceeded due to increased demand from partners
2.5	# of persons who successfully completed an in-service training in strategic information including data collection, collation, analysis and use	10	75	750%	Target exceeded due to increased demand from partners

Support for Coordination at State and LGA levels

Year 5 of the CUBS project witnessed further strengthening and repositioning of systems for sustainability and ownership in line with the *National Priority Agenda for Vulnerable Children 2013 – 2020* and *Nigeria Vision 2020*. These documents underline the importance of building the technical and organizational leadership capacity of Nigerian Government Ministries at all levels to coordinate care and support for vulnerable children, with an emphasis on the government’s role in creating an enabling environment for children’s growth and protection.

The Project will hand over a number of legacies to the Government of Nigeria, including a total of 42 functioning State Technical Steering Committees (STSC) and the Local Management Committees on Vulnerable Children (LMC)—formerly known as Technical Working Groups (TWGs)—at state and LGA levels. In addition to the 40 committees already operational, the Project collaborated with the SMWA&SD of the Akwa Ibom and Delta States to form two additional committees in Esit Eket and Aniocha North LGAs.



LMC Meeting in Rivers State

This stage of the Project was comprised of regular mentoring, monitoring, supervision, and meetings of committees in all 11 Project states: Akwa Ibom, Delta, Enugu, Imo, Bayelsa, Rivers, Ekiti, Gombe, Sokoto, Taraba, and Kebbi. During this period, CUBS staff guided members of the committees through the Project's exit plans, provided technical support, and developed action points on sustaining support for OVC.

This coordination has already yielded positive results: as the system becomes stronger, communities are increasingly taking the lead and embarking on interventions that improve the wellbeing of OVC and caregivers. For example, during the year, Nkanu West LMC in Enugu State, in collaboration with Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), trained LGA Action Committees in the effective support of AIDS liaisons with HIV Testing and Counseling (HTC). The training also covered an examination of reports from trained Traditional Birth Attendants (TBAs). The trained counselors provide access to HTC for OVC, caregivers, and community members who, prior to this initiative, could not travel to the testing centers.

In addition to providing technical assistance, the CUBS project further strengthened the system by building capacity of SMWA&SD staff and the social welfare unit at the LGA level to coordinate OVC service delivery. In Gombe and Taraba States, the CUBS team supported the State Agencies for the Control of AIDS to conduct assessments of CSOs for HIV and AIDS Funds using the National Harmonized Organizational Capacity Assessment Tool (NHOCAT). They also provided technical assistance for contract negotiation, signing for the HIV and AIDS Fund (World Bank) grants, and assisted with the development of work plans for successful CSOs. The successful CSOs used the grants to scale up prevention, care, and support services for People Living with HIV (PLHIV), People Affected by HIV/AIDS (PABA), and OVC in their communities.

The system-strengthening effort of CUBS continues to yield dividends with the Ministry of Women Affairs in Imo State. CUBS organized a CSO coordination meeting to create effective collaboration among major stakeholders in OVC programming, ownership, and sustainability. A

total of 24 organizations attended, including CPNs; Associations of OVC Networks in Nigeria (AONN); CSOs; SMWA&SD; State Universal Basic Education Board (SUBEB); and the Network of People Living with HIV/AIDS in Nigeria (NEPWHAN). All the groups participated in the development of action plans to continue the system-strengthening initiatives.

OVC Situation Analysis

A growing number of states, national governments, and international stakeholders recognize that addressing the needs of vulnerable children (OVC) and mitigating negative outcomes of the growing OVC population worldwide is a high priority issue with social, economic, and human rights dimensions.

The increasing threat of insurgence across the globe, including in northern Nigeria, has made increasing numbers of children more vulnerable than ever. Assembling the relevant available data on OVC in one repository--while acknowledging the gaps that remain in our understanding of the complex causes and interventions of the crisis—will assist policymakers and program implementers make evidence-based decisions about how best to direct funding and program activities to maximize positive outcomes for children and their caregivers.

To analyze the situation further, in response to Gombe State SMWA&SD, CUBS provided technical support for an OVC survey. The purpose of the survey was to determine the magnitude and characterization of OVC population in Gombe State by measuring the total number of OVC by LGAs as well as by categories of OVC by sex, age, and needs.

Leadership Training

In Year 5, the Project sustained and furthered the gains achieved in leadership training during the previous four years. In line with NPA and the Vision 2020 agenda, CUBS has prioritized leadership training as key to strengthening the social welfare system in Nigeria. To this effect, during the last year of the Project, CUBS supported Kebbi, Ekiti, Akwa Ibom, Rivers, Delta, Gombe, and Bayelsa States in training and retraining LGA OVC desk officers and OVC stakeholders at state and LGA levels. The training focused on leadership, advocacy, collaboration, and resource mobilization, as well as problem-solving methodology to identify community needs, match them with available resources, and apply these resources to meet the needs. A total of **174 people were trained** during this period.

As a result of this training, empowered community leaders quickly and effectively advocated for funding and support of OVC programming at their respective LGAs.

As examples, during the last year, the Gombe team advocated for increased CSOs funding. The chairman of Kaltungo LGA responded by funding Knightingale, one of CUBS' CSOs in Gombe State, with increased support for OVC services. In Delta State, the SMWA&SD developed a proposal for funding with minimal support from CUBS team. The proposal was submitted to the World Bank.

The National Priority Agenda (NPA)

The NPA for Vulnerable Children 2013-2020 is an eight-year strategic framework to guide the development of a multi-sector operational structure to implement Nigeria Vision 2020 (NV20:2020), the goals of which are to ensure the protection of the most vulnerable children in Nigeria and reduce child poverty. The NPA is based on the understanding that investment in the poorest and most vulnerable children in Nigeria is a prerequisite for achieving the specific goals of NV20:2020. The NPA is built around six major commitments that focus on critical priorities that must be realized:

- All poor and vulnerable children have equitable access to and benefit from comprehensive social protection services
- All children are safe from abuse, violence, exploitation, and neglect
- Vulnerable children are healthy and well nourished.
- Vulnerable children have equitable access to, and benefit from, quality basic education
- Vulnerable children have adequate standard of living conditions
- All children have a legal identity

The NPA is in line with PEPFAR guidance to help country teams and implementing partners develop country operational plans (COPs) and design programs that support vulnerable children in their contexts, align with known best practices, and incorporate potential innovation.

Through a participatory and mentoring process, CUBS supported 10 of the 11 project states to adapt the NPA and integrate it into their state priority agendas. These customized NPAs are now fully owned by the state governments. They will help the LGAs adapt their state documents and develop operational plans to improve OVC wellbeing in their states.



Participants at the NPA adaptation in Taraba State

Handover

In Year 5, CUBS continues to ensure that state and CSO partners maintain continuity of care for OVC. This continuity of care includes sustaining access to quality services for children within their homes strengthening caregivers to protect OVC, and strengthening the system for future challenges.

CUBS teams in all 11 Project implementation states handed over Project documents, reports, OVC e-register, OVC database, and directory to OVC Desk officers in respective SMWA&SD agencies.

To ensure continuous support and care for vulnerable children, CUBS transferred ownership of assets used during the Project to the CSOs. These assets include chairs, tables, fans, file cabinets, laptops, wall clocks, white marking boards, and vehicles.

Intermediate Result 3: Community Support for Vulnerable Children's Care Strengthened

Indicator	Indicator Description	PY 5 Target	Total PY 5 Achievement	% of Target Achieved	Explanation
3.1	Number of Child protection Committees coordinating the protection of vulnerable children at the community level	0	116		
3.2	Number of Civil society organization that refers OVC using the existing states functional referral systems	38	38	100%	

The NPA recognizes the importance and responsibilities of the family in children’s development, as well as the supportive role played by the community. Programs and interventions have adopted a household-centered approach to strengthen the capacity of the family to ensure the fulfillment of their children’s rights promote community participation, with the government providing necessary support.

In line with the above commitment of the NPA, during the reporting period CUBS advanced earlier achievements in supporting the family and facilitating community ownership for sustainability.

Collaborating with Community to Celebrate World AIDS Day

As an example of CUBS collaboration with communities to celebrate special events and improve vulnerable children’s quality of life in all Project communities and in Nigeria at large, CUBS joins millions of organizations to commemorate the **World AIDS Day**. The events celebrate the battles that have been won in the fight against HIV/AIDS while calling attention to areas that require more effort. In celebrating the 2013 World AIDS Day theme "Getting to zero: Zero new HIV Infections. Zero Discrimination and Zero AIDS-Related Deaths." CUBS teamed up with CSOs, the SMWA&SDs and the Ministry of Health (MoH) to call for an end to HIV-related stigma and for improved access to HIV prevention services, specifically for young girls and boys—and for increased testing for the virus. **A total of 334 people were tested in Delta (54) and Bayelsa (280) States.** Three positives were found—one in Delta and two in Bayelsa. These individuals were immediately referred for care and treatment.

Updating Referral Directories

Global partnership and collaboration are critical points of the Millennium Development Goals and the NPA. Strengthening partnerships, networking, and collaboration are also crosscutting strategies of the NPA.

Collaboration is fundamental to ensuring coordinated and efficient service delivery, non-duplication of effort, sharing of best practices and lessons learned, and providing continuity of care at the child level. Initiatives under this building block focus on building and nurturing partnerships among government ministries, departments, agencies, and civil society organizations through regular stakeholder-wide dialogues at all levels.

To assure access to comprehensive services and resources that address the needs of vulnerable families, the Project developed an essential Referral Directory. As new CSOs start work in communities, they become aware of service resources as well as some that have closed out and no longer provide services. The directory is updated on a regular basis to include new CSOs and remove from the list those that are no longer functional.

CUBS-partnered CSOs updated the referral directory for their respective communities with information gleaned from line ministries, CSOs, faith-based organizations (FBOs), and implementing partners. The updated referral directories have been submitted to the SMWA&SD.

Child Protection Committee

The NPA is based on the principles of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child and the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child. These charters recognize that children are human beings and are the subject of their own rights. The fulfillment of children's rights is mandatory - not optional, nor a favor or kindness to children, nor is it an expression of charity. As such, all interventions under the NPA will ensure that

1. The best interests of the child are the primary concern in any decision affecting them;
2. There is no discrimination against any child, whatever their race, religion or abilities, type of family they come from, where they live, the language they speak, what their parents do, whether they are boys or girls, what their culture is, whether they have a disability, or whether they are rich or poor;
3. Every child is given the best chance to survive and develop to his/her full potential;
4. Children are able to express their views and to participate in family, cultural, and social life and participate in decisions that affect them.

In accordance with the guiding principle of the NPA and CUBS' principle of ensuring community participation, ownership, and sustainability, the Project at the last phase continues to strengthen the Child Protection Committee in all Project implementation states and LGAs. Methods include mentoring, training, and retraining to ensure CPC members are knowledgeable about child protection issues and equipped with the needed skills to protect children.

CUBS, in collaboration with the SMWA&SD and Gombe State, carried out a three-day training workshop (November 5-7, 2013) for the 25 CPC members of Kaltungo LGA. CPC members were trained on advocacy techniques and how to use these to mobilize community support. The training emphasized community and resource mobilization strategies.

Caregivers Training

Continuity of care and sustainable access to quality OVC services for children within their homes has been a priority during Year 5. **During this period, 615 OVC caregivers were mentored and trained on how to provide OVC services.**

The caregivers were given skills strengthening strategies in small business, homestead gardening, nutrition counseling, psychosocial support, safe motherhood, family planning, and HIV and AIDS/STIs prevention across all the 11 project states of Akwa Ibom, Delta, Bayelsa, Ekiti, Kebbi, Rivers, Gombe, Imo, Sokoto, Enugu and Taraba. This initiative is in line with the Project's strategy of building community systems from the bottom up and strengthening households. We believe that this is a more sustainable strategy than "top down," because children will continue to be helped by trained caregivers long after the CUBS project ends.



Participants at the Caregivers training in Gombe

Households with economically empowered household heads will be better able to protect and care for their members and children. Their children will be less likely to drop out of school, become destitute, be taken advantage of, or die from preventable and treatable ailments.

CUBS' household economic strengthening (HES) program continues to reduce the vulnerability of children, caregivers, and families and improves their wellbeing.

After training caregivers on micro-enterprise and basic bookkeeping, **CUBS empowered 326 of the trainees with small business start-up grants** (approximately USD\$50). The caregivers use profits from their small businesses to pay for their OVC's school fees, purchase school uniforms, and provide them with nourishing food. Without this support, many of the OVC beneficiaries would have been unable to attend school and may have become sick.



“My children are confident to go to school like all the other children and are not ashamed to call me mother!” -beneficiary caregiver from Kebbi.

CSO Board Training

The last year of the project also witnessed CUBS’ strategy of repositioning all 38 CSOs for further challenges in OVC programming, care and support. To that end, CUBS ensured that all CSOs’ governing bodies were trained on OVC programming, institutional capacity building, governance, transparency, accountability, and sustainability.

Collaboration and Partnership

Collaboration and partnership is a cardinal element of NPA’s strategy to reduce child vulnerability and poverty and improve wellbeing, and it is also key strategy of the Millennium Development Goals.

CUBS collaborated with various partners to ensure continuity of care and support for vulnerable children. In the last phase, the Project continued to benefit from the support of micro-finance bank and Dozie Foundation in Akwa Ibom and Imo respectively to support caregivers. CUBS also collaborated with other development partners such PACT, CIHP, Centre for Clinical Research (CCRN), International Centre for AIDS Treatment Program (ICAP), PATH 2, Global Fund, Health Alive Foundation (HAF), Voices for Change, OVC LGAs ENCAP, and participating communities.

Intermediate Result 4: Vulnerability Status of Girl Children and Women Reduced

Indicator	Indicator Description	PY 5 Target	Total PY 5 Achievement	% of Target Achieved	Explanation
4	% of households with reduced vulnerability of female OVC and female heads of households	0			Preliminary result findings yet to be validated
4.1	# of OVC reached with individual and/or small group level preventive interventions that are based on evidence and/or meet the minimum standards required	600	6,384	1064%	Target exceeded as prevention messages were integrated into Girl Groups and kids' club activities
4.2	# of female child-headed household supported by the OVC program	N/A	20		
4.3	# of programs that address protection issues for female OVC and caregivers	39	38	97.4%	Target achieved

Village Savings and Loan Associations

One of the critical needs that CUBS identified in the project-supported communities is that many female heads of households (FHH) who care for OVC have low or no household income. To reduce this burden, CUBS helped FHH and OVC caregivers form voluntary savings and loans associations (VSLAs).

VSLAs provide a mechanism for caregivers to pool their savings so they have a source for lending funds. Members make savings contributions to the pool, borrow from it, and repay their loans with interest. In this reporting year, CUBS continued to strengthen these VSLA groups through monitoring, mentoring, and hands-on training.

The project staff trained and empowered 133 FHHs on the basics of microenterprise, income generation, household nutrition, and homestead gardening. The skills-based training included food demonstration, preservation/processing, and disease education and prevention. Together, these trainings improved the FHHs' business skills, enabling them to earn more income to provide for the children in their care.

During the year, CUBS continued to support a family-centered approach to service provision in line with national women empowerment, poverty eradication, and PEPFAR guidelines. **CUBS established and provided technical support to 92 VSLAs across eleven (11) Project states to improve the economic condition of OVC caregivers.** These VSLAs' members participated in joint enterprises, such as palm oil processing, cassava processing, stone mining, farming, and

produce sales. Since then some of these groups have obtained loans from financial institutions and other foundations.

As a result of participation in VSLA, caregivers in Akwa Ibom, Gombe, Bayelsa, and Taraba States have attested to their enhanced capacity to meet the needs of OVCs adequately at the exit of the Project. In order to enhance the functionality of the VSLAs in the states, CUBS participated in their monthly meetings and provided technical assistance and trainings.

“I used to struggle to earn 50 naira [US\$0.30] a day, but now I have money to buy food and books for my children.”-David Callista Udo CUBS-supported caregiver.

“CUBS has made me realize that I can make it! The income-generating skills training I received helped me to save and plan properly for myself, my family, and business. [I also learned to] build relationships with people who [can support] my vision and dreams,” said Bridget.



Two of the beneficiaries of the seed grant program from Akwa Ibom

Support for Girl Group Forums on Life Skills Building, and HIV Prevention and Protection Initiatives

Adolescence is a time of increased risk-taking and poor decision-making. The CUBS project established Girl Groups specifically to address the challenge of reducing adolescent girls’

vulnerability to behaviors that increase the risk of contracting HIV/AIDS and STIs. The groups promote networking among girls, encourage interaction with their peers, share information, build life skills, and provide career guidance.

The forum brings together girls from various communities to a central location to foster learning through experience sharing and interaction. These girls go back to their communities to form more Girl Groups and share information with other girls through peer education.

During the year under review, over 6,384 adolescent girls participated in Girl Groups meetings in Bayelsa, Akwa Ibom, Delta, Gombe, Sokoto, and Rivers States. In addition to disseminating knowledge and relationship skills, girls learned about career choices, self-esteem, and how to develop and maintain healthy relationships.

The girls were encouraged to remain in school and avail themselves of additional opportunities to acquire skills in dressmaking, baking, computer use, hairdressing, and language classes, among others. Basic age-appropriate adolescent reproductive health information on prevention of STIs, HIV/AIDS, and pregnancy was provided. The girls also engaged in other activities such as bead making and knitting, and they displayed their handcrafts at the end of the meetings.

A girl in Bayelsa said “I never believed that I can (sic) stand before more than 2 persons and speak, but now this project has inspired me to speak before thousands of honorable men and women, and has given me the opportunity to be known in Opokuma as a queen and a role model.”



Girls Group meeting at Oshimili North in Delta State

Training and Empowerment Programs

CUBS trained 14 adolescent girls from several acquisition centers in Rivers State on vocational skills. The girls learned computer application skills, hair styling, and dressmaking. At the conclusion of the training, CUBS provided vocational equipment to all the girls so they can further develop their skills, attain financial independence, fulfill their career aspirations, and encourage other girls to pursue their goals.

“We thank you for what you have done for us. When we started, we were afraid, not knowing what we will get at the end of the training, but here we are today with laptops, printers, hair dryers, sewing machines, and all the things we need to set up our businesses. God bless you”- Ifeoma Chizoba

One indicator of the training’s success came when the SMWA&SD launched an initiative to replicate the training with 30 adolescent female OVCs in each of the 18 LGAs in the State.

Comments from the girls and their caregivers:

“We thank Africare for their support. May God reward and bless them to do more for others as well.”- Victoria Michael

“Because of Africare’s support, we will be able to provide for ourselves and our family. Thank you for making us entrepreneurs at our age.”- Happiness Sunday

“I am happy that my child was chosen to go to computer training. She always wanted to go to school but my husband has a very small salary and we have many children. We can’t pay for them all to go to school—so Barile had to stop school. I am so happy with Africare, but my husband hopes she will get a certificate when she finishes and that they will help her get job.” - Barile’s mother

Commemoration of International Women’s Day 2014

The 2014 International Women's Day theme, "Inspiring Change," was established to celebrate Nigerian women’s social, political, and economic achievements, while also focusing on areas requiring further action and advocacy for women's advancement. With this theme in mind, the CUBS team and Girls Group members in Delta State participated in an **International Women's Day rally** alongside staff from Delta SMWA&SD and the wife of the Delta State governor.

During the rally, participants held up banners and posters with various messages such as “educate the girl child,” “say no to child trafficking,” “stop girl child early marriage,” “stop sexual harassment,” and “say no to prostitution.” The celebration concluded with a symposium organized to further inspire and empower women through a lecture called “Equity for Women is Progress for All.” The symposium was organized by the wife of the Delta State governor in collaboration with the RUBIES School of Women Empowerment and the Pink Pearl Foundation.



Girls in Delta state with International Women's Day celebration banner

Intermediate Result 5: Systems for Disseminating Evidence-Based Best Practices Strengthened

Indicator	Indicator Description	PY 4 Target	Total	% of Target Achieved	Explanation
5.1	# of persons trained in the use of the CSI	50	75	>100%	The SMWA&SD in Akwa Ibom requested support
5.2	# of service sites/delivery points that receive a DQA visit	38	38	100%	Target achieved
5.3	# of CSOs that provide data that are complete on a timely basis based on the national M&E Plan for OVCs	38	38	100%	Target achieved

In its final year of implementation, the project's **bi-annual CSO review meeting** provided a platform to showcase achievements and lessons learned from the 38 CSO organizations. This year's meeting focused on presenting the strengths and sustainability of the CSOs to prospective donors, with the goal of mobilizing resources for continuation of these gains. In addition, deserving CSOs received awards for results attained during the Project term. The bi-annual review meeting helps the CSOs attract funding, learn from each other, and disseminate best practices.

To ensure the sustainability of CSOs and the vulnerable children under its care, the Project initiated block grants to support communities within the Project. This process took place during Year 5, and is expected to yield benefits to the community and to CUBS enrolled-children for at least five years after the Project close.

To strengthen its information and data management, the Project has continued to produce **capacity-building programs for state and local Ministry of Women Affairs staff, including NOMIS training for 60 attendees and Strategic Information Management training for 54 attendees.**

The support to Ekiti State for the OVC Survey was concluded within the year. The dissemination of survey results motivated several other states to request similar support from CUBS. The Project shared CSI data and recommendations with donors, ministries, and implementing and CSO partners, in keeping with the Project's shared learning and knowledge management goals.

To ensure sustainability of Project gains, the organizational development and system-strengthening efforts focused on **improvement and functionality of governing boards among 24 CBOs.** The team also focused on facilitating the development of strategic plans for its remaining CSOs. **The Project supported nine CSOs in the process of developing strategic plans** and refocusing their organizations.

The Project intensified monitoring and mentoring to improve policy implementation among the CSOs to ensure stronger organizational system and processes. Ensuring that the CSOs have appropriate policies and strategic plans are keys to functional, sustainable systems. These, of course, are prerequisites to donor interest, and donor investment is crucial to sustainability. This was a major focus and a big part of the deliverable for this result area as the Projects works to ensure a more robust funding base for its CSOs as a key indicator for sustainability.

Through its state offices, the Project continued to provide mentoring and supervision to the CSO partners to ensure the implementation of the developed organizational capacity improvement plans and bring the organizations to a desired level of capacity. In the year being reviewed, emphasis was placed on improving documentation and the organizational resource base.

Strengthening of linkages and collaborations among the 38 CSOs also continued across the Project within the year.

A major achievement during the year was the successful dissemination of Project achievements, best practices, and lessons learned at an end-of-project event, "Facilitating Sustainable OVC Partnerships and Systems – the CUBS Story." This session attracted over 500 development practitioners and stakeholders across the country. The Project's materials, tools, research works, publications, and related findings were showcased and shared. The CUBS project was dubbed a huge success during the dissemination.



*Stakeholders at the CUBS End-of-Project Dissemination Event:
"Facilitating Sustainable OVC Partnerships and Systems – the CUBS Story"*



*Participants at the CUBS End-of-Project Dissemination Event:
"Facilitating Sustainable OVC Partnerships and Systems – the CUBS Story"*